

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Ultrasonic, sonic or vibratory energy, delivered non-invasively, minimally  
invasively or invasively (e.g. surgically), is utilized to provide direct cleaning ac-  
5 tion at or to the location of the implanted device such as a prosthetic heart valve  
with undesirable deposits of at least some amount thereon or therein. Such ultra-  
sound energy may be aided by the use of a drug in association or cooperation  
with the acoustic irradiation. The "cleaning" acoustic energy may optionally be de-  
10 livered under the guidance of an imaging modality and may be delivered in a  
timed or gated manner such that the valve occluders or leaflets are in a preferred  
position (assuming they are functioning) during exposures.